

CLAIMS:

1. A method for doing business, including the following steps all carried out by a web server:

- (a) maintaining a commercial subscriber database including a plurality of records each containing data relating to commercial subscribers including at least name, address and category,
- (b) receiving from a client machine connected thereto a request to download data relating to at least one specified category of commercial subscriber,
- (c) extracting from the commercial subscriber database respective records and uploading to the client machine for display thereby,
- (d) allowing receipt of an update from one or more commercial subscribers in respect of substitute or supplementary data to that contained in the respective database record of said one or more commercial subscribers,
- (e) updating said commercial subscriber database as required,
- (f) checking whether a client machine is on-line and has extracted data from the respective database record of said one or more commercial subscribers, and if so
- (g) downloading to the client machine the update in respect of each of said one or more commercial subscribers for display on the client machine,
- (h) wherein said steps of receiving and downloading are performed over a communication link having any available data transmission rate.

2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the subscription fee includes a component that varies according to one or more categories associated with said records.